

Interview Summary

Application No.

09/996,781

Applicant(s)

KAJINO ET AL.

Examiner

Bradley J Van Pelt

Art Unit

3682

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Bradley J Van Pelt.

(3) John Fitzpatrick.

(2) David Bucci.

(4) _____.

Date of Interview: 06 April 2004.

Type: a) ☐ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference

c) ☒ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☒ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☐ No.

If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: Proposed claim 1 attached hereto.

Identification of prior art discussed: of record

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☒ was reached. g) ☐ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: It was agreed that proposed claim 1 attached hereto, defined over the prior art of record. Applicant to respond in due course.
(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.


Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.


Examiner's signature, if required

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiner's Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A starter for an internal combustion engine including a planetary gear speed reduction mechanism, a pinion to be engaged with a ring gear of said engine and a pinion drive shaft connected to said speed reduction mechanism, comprising:

a motor having a motor housing with a first outside diameter and a motor shaft;

a front housing for supporting said pinion drive shaft, said front housing having a bearing for supporting said pinion drive shaft at one end of said shaft and an integrally formed and radially-outwardly extending flange for providing a plurality of fastening holes disposed at a circumference having second diameter through which a plurality of fastening bolts is fixed to a portion of said internal combustion engine; and

a center casing having approximately the same outside diameter as said motor housing and a bearing for supporting said pinion drive shaft at the other end, said center casing being disposed between said motor housing and said front housing for aligning said motor shaft, said planetary gear speed reduction mechanism and said pinion drive shaft; and

adjusting means for fixing said front housing to a selected angular position of said center casing, wherein a difference between said first diameter and said second diameter is larger than a maximum outside diameter of said fastening bolt so that said fastening bolt can be inserted into said fastening hole along outer peripheries of said motor housing, and said adjusting means comprises a first number of female screw holes formed at an end of said center casing, a second number of through holes, which number is smaller than said first number, formed at an end of said front housing in contact with said end of said center casing

and a plurality of bolts that screw into those of said female screw holes that are selected to adjust said front housing to said selected angular position.

2. (Previously Amended) The starter as claimed in claim 1, wherein said difference is larger than outside diameter of a socket wrench.
3. (Original) The starter as claimed in claim 2, further comprising an end frame having a plurality of radially projecting fixing portions disposed away from said fastening holes so as not to obstruct said socket wrench.
4. (Original) The starter as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first outside diameter of said motor housing is between 100 mm and 118 mm, and said planetary gear speed reduction mechanism has a speed reduction ratio between 3.8 and 4.4.
5. (Previously Amended) The starter as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a dust seal disposed between said front housing and said center housing.
6. (Previously Presented) The starter as claimed in claim 5, further comprising a rotary member connected to said pinion drive shaft, wherein said dust seal has an inner edge that contacts an outer periphery of said rotary member.
7. (Previously Presented) The starter as claimed in claim 6, wherein said rotary member comprises an overrunning clutch.
8. (Previously Presented) The starter as claimed in claim 1, further including a plurality of projecting members projecting radially outward, wherein said adjusting means locates each of said fastening holes away from said projecting members.